

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

NAS-01 PA-01 DODE-00 USIA-06 /035 W

----- 008757

R 031138Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2115

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0924

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OCON YO

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II
AND PROSPECTS FOR PEACE

REF: STATE 27668; USNATO 978

1. ACCORDING TO BOGDAN TOMASIC, SECRETARY OF YUGOSLAV
ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF
COMMITTEE SPONSORING SUBJECT CONFERENCE, CONFERENCE WILL BE
HELD SEPT 8-13, 1975 IN EITHER OPATIJA OR ZAGREB.

2. TOMASIC TOLD CONGEN OFFICER INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO
INSTITUTES AND UNIVERSITIES IN LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES,
INCLUDING MOST PARTICIPANTS IN WW II, AS WELL AS THIRD WORLD
COUNTRIES. US INVITATIONS HAVE GONE TO NAS AND NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AS WELL AS NUMEROUS UNIVERSITIES,
INCLUDING MICHIGAN, BERKELEY, HARVARD AND YALE. SOVIET
INSTITUTIONS RECEIVING INVITATIONS INCLUDE LENINGRAD
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, MOSCOW UNIVERSITY, MOSCOW INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND WAR VETERANS COMMITTEE.
INVITATIONS HAVE ALSO GONE TO LIMITED NUMBER OF HISTORIANS
AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS, (INCLUDING JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH).
(TOMASIC PROMISED TO SEND US LIST OF INSTITUTIONS AND
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INDIVIDUALS INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE.) TOMASIC EXPECTS

ABOUT 150 PERSONS TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE.

3. TOMASIC SAID ACCEPTANCES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM USSR, HUNGARY, AND GDR, WHICH ARE SENDING "STRONG DELEGATIONS". HE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE SOON ACCEPTANCE FROM UNNAMED FRENCH SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE.

4. TOMASIC STATED THAT FEDERAL PRESIDENCY MEMBER VLADIMIR BAKARIC WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, SINCE HE IS PRESIDENT OF SPONSORING COMMITTEE WITHIN ACADEMY. FEDERAL PRESIDENCY MEMBER EDVARD KARDELJ IS ALSO EXPECTED TO GIVE SPEECH AT CONFERENCE.

5. PURVIEW OF CONFERENCE INCLUDES CAUSES OF WW II, BUT ALSO COVERS WHOLE RANGE OF POSTWAR PROBLEMS, INCLUDING COLD WAR, DECOLONIZATION AND PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS, ARMS RACE, AND ENERGY CRISIS. (WE ARE FORWARDING TO DEPT ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ABOUT CONFERENCE VIA UNCLASSIFIED POUCH.)

6. TOMASIC EMPHASIZED YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN US PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCE. IN CLEAR REFERENCE TO BLOC COUNTRY ACCEPTANCES, HE STATED THAT "WE DO NOT WANT CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION TO BE ONE-SIDED". TOMASIC ACKNOWLEDGED DANGER THAT DISCUSSION OF MANY OF CONFERENCE TOPICS COULD DEGENERATE INTO POLITICAL POLEMICS, HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT YUGOSLAVS WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO AVOID SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. HE STATED THAT CHAIRMAN WILL KEEP FIRM HAND ON DISCUSSIONS.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TOMASIC SAID YUGOSLAVS WERE NOT INVITING POLITICIANS, THE PRESENCE OF BAKARIC AND KARDLJ WOULD MAKE CONFERENCE SOMETHING MORE THAN PURELY ACADEMIC AFFAIR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVITATIONS, MEETINGS, WORLD WAR II
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA00924
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750075-0354
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750390/aaaadbg.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 27668, 75 USNATO 978
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II AND PROSPECTS FOR PEACE
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006